

*With thanks to you all*

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
UPON THE  
HEALTH AND  
SANITARY CONDITION  
OF THE  
AMBLE URBAN DISTRICT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER 31, 1904.**

R. G. McINNES, PRINTER, AMBLE.



# **Annual Report**

*of the*

## **Medical Officer of Health**

*for the Year 1904.*



*To the Chairman and Members of the Amble  
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

The Physical conditions of the past year have been much in advance on those of 1903. The seasons brought to us weather of an equitable type which had an important bearing upon the health of the community, severe respiratory diseases being much less in evidence than for some years past. During the early months we were favoured with copious showers, and again in August, so that nature's cleansing elements have been practically constantly at work.

### ***Birth Rate.***

The number of Births registered during the year was 142, eighty of these being male and the remaining sixty-two female. This is the lowest number for some years past and gives a birth rate (on an estimated population of 5000) of 28.4 per 1000. The average rate for the past ten years is 35.2 per 1000.

### *Death Rate.*

The number of Deaths from all causes was 80 and these were distributed over the year as follows :—

JANUARY	8	MAY	7	SEPTEMBER	4
FEBRUARY	11	JUNE	7	OCTOBER	5
MARCH	11	JULY	4	NOVEMBER	4
APRIL	5	AUGUST	4	DECEMBER	10

Of these eighty deaths 42 were males and 38 females and the death rate over the whole year was 16 per 1000, this being 1.8 per 1000 above that of last year and 1.1 above the average for the past 10 years. From this total may be legitimately deducted eight deaths from accidents and otherwise which have been the subject of Coroner's inquiries, so that the corrected death rate due to disease and at all ages is 14.4 per 1000 and compares favourably with like towns similarly situated.

### *Analysis of Death Rate.*

Of the eighty deaths fourteen were those of infants under one year giving an infantile death rate of .8 per 1000, the average of the past 10 years being a little over 5 per 1000. The rate per 1000 children born is 98.6 as compared with 145.5 per 1000 the average of the past 10 years. Of the fourteen infant deaths nine were due to premature birth and congenital weakness, one to zymotic disease, and the remainder to general nutritional troubles. Between the ages of 1 and 5 years there were nine deaths; between 5 and 15, eleven; 15 and 25, five; 25 and 65, twenty-eight; and 65 years and upwards, twelve. Particulars of these will be found on Table IV appended herewith and the numbers call for no special comment.

### *Causes of Death.*

For the second consecutive year one has pleasure in noticing that the infantile death list has been free from the Epidemic Diarrhoea, in children often so common and so fatal. The persistent warning so often reiterated by the medical men of the district as to the value of maternal nursing, the choice and cleansing of infants' bottles, the keeping cool and sweet of the milk, and the abolition of "boiley"—that veritable "death in the pot"—has its evident record. The deaths due to 3ymotic diseases

*record*

were eight, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough each claiming three, and Diphtheria two. Considering the large number of Scarlet Fever cases reported the deaths from that disease cannot be considered anything else than satisfactory. The deaths from Phthisis numbered four, giving an average of .8 per 1000. This has been the rate for the past three years and is extremely low. From other Tubercular diseases one death alone resulted, from Pneumonia two, Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases five. The deaths from malignant diseases numbered four, being two less than the previous year.

### *Infectious Diseases.*

The Scarlet Fever Epidemic which was raging at the commencement of the year continued until well on in the spring, since when only sporadic cases have occurred. Eighty-three cases were notified occurring in some 60 houses. The close connection between many families living within the Urban District and others living at Chevington Drift, Broomhill, and Radcliffe, have materially aided the outbreak as isolation in many homes being impossible, visitations from a house "smitten" to a house "free" takes place with palpable and too often dire results. Fortunately, as the death rate will show, the type has been comparatively mild. A destructor and disinfecter have an urgent claim upon the Council for the public weal. Of the 2 cases of Diphtheria, one was due to a previous attack of Scarletina, whilst the other was probably brought into the town by the patient returning from an infected district.

**SMALL POX.** For another year we have been free from any semblance of a visitation. Continual medical examination has been made of tramps and caravans coming from infected districts.

### *Milk Supply.*

This has been satisfactory and in no case has disease been traced to any defect therein. Samples have been selected and tested from time to time and with one exception all have reached the requisite standard, both in purity and quantity of cream contained therein.

## *Water Supply.*

The quantity and quality of the water have fully equalled that of previous years, and the Council cannot but be gratified on having such a reliable supply. During the Autumn the Members of the Council, together with the Inspector and Medical Officer, visited the whole of the springs and reservoir and found everything in healthful order. The question of augmenting the present supply by the acquiring of extra springs then engaged, and still engaged the attention of the Council, and when the opportune moment arrives it is to be hoped that all available sources of pure spring water will be acquired.

## *Scavenging.*

Early in the year the Council decided to take over this branch of municipal work which had hitherto been contracted for. That this step was a profitable one in every way has been amply borne out. The cleansing of the town is now under the immediate control of the Surveyor, whose thorough and systematic methods demand all commendation. The Council's equipment for this branch of the work leaves little to be desired, and it is to be hoped that ere long all necessity for removing focal refuse will be done away with by the adoption of a complete water carriage system.

## *Nuisances.*

During the year I have drawn the attention of the Council to such nuisances as impeded the progress of good health. In some parts of the town useless and insanitary privies and outhouses have been condemned, whilst in others open manure heaps have been ordered to be remodelled in accordance with the bye-laws. Other nuisances of a minor nature have also been abated. A number of ash pits and common privies still exist, and one cannot but feel that their speedy abolition would materially improve the general health of the town.

It is gratifying to note that the abominable nuisance of street spitting, to which I drew attention in my report for 1903, has been in a great measure abated. It is only my duty by repetition to point out to offenders that the most dire diseases may in this way be spread and ask them to desist and request others to do likewise.

### *Slaughter Houses.*

These have been regularly inspected and have usually complied with the Council's bye-laws.

### *Bake Houses and Mineral Water Manufactories.*

These have been kept clean and tidy and are in every way satisfactory.

### *Sewers.*

These, under the inspection of the Surveyor, have been periodically flushed and cleaned and have given no cause for complaint.

### *Houses.*

During the year a considerable number of houses have been erected. The better class of building has not only raised the standard of the town but the up-to-date sanitary arrangements therein ensure a more healthful future.

### *Isolation Hospital.*

For another year this has not been in requisition. Although Small Pox has raged on our right hand and on our left we have escaped infection. The Hospital is ever ready for the reception of patients should necessity arise.

An isolation ground for suspected cases is a palpable necessity and I would impress upon the Council the defining of such an area at the earliest moment.

### *Lodging Houses.*

These have been inspected from time to time and found satisfactory.

### *Port Sanitation.*

Cases of suspicious sickness on vessels entering the Harbour have been reported to the Medical Officer, but fortunately none of these have presented any dangerous form. The Harbour itself has given every satisfaction in its sanitary condition.

### *Factories and Workshops.*

All these are working in accordance with the Act of Parliament controlling them, with the exception of a few minor defects which have been rectified. The buildings have been sanitary and the employees in a satisfactory state of health.

### *Public Mortuary.*

For some years the Medical Officers serving the Council have reported the need for above, and with the sad circumstances of the recent disaster in mind, also the fact that rarely a year passes without some dead mariner having to be landed on our shores, I would again urgently draw the matter to the attention of the Council.

### *Summary.*

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I beg to report the satisfactory condition both in health and sanitation of the domains supervised by the Council. There are, and must necessarily be, many matters to improve whereby even a better state of public health may be demanded and the risk of the ravages of infectious disease diminished. The refuse destructor, a portable house disinfecter, an isolation camping ground, and a public mortuary are examples of these—and to them may be added the abolition of privy-middens, and the rectifying of minor nuisances which from time to time it is my duty to present to your notice.

For the courteous manner in which the Council have invariably received and acted upon my suggestions I desire to tender my best thanks, and also to the other officials for their ready co-operation at all times.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**HENRY MARTYN STUMBLES, M.B.**

*(Medical Officer of Health).*



TABLE I.

**AMBLE DISTRICT. (For Whole District).**

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS		DEATHS under One Year of age		DEATHS at all ages.		Total.
		Numb'r	Rate.	Numb'r	Rate per 1000 Births regis't'd	Numb'r	Rate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1894	3,500	141	40.29	19	134.7	72	20.58	
1895	4,000	143	35.75	25	174.8	71	17.75	
1896	4,000	142	35.35	19	133.8	58	14.5	
1897	4,500	143	31.7	25	174.8	65	14.4	
1898	4,500	156	34.66	23	147.4	66	14.6	
1899	4,500	138	30.66	33	239.0	69	15.3	
1900	4,500	160	35.5	18	112.5	52	11.46	
1901	4,426	158	35.1	25	158.2	67	14.8	
1902	4,650	170	36.5	15	88.2	55	11.8	
1903	5,000	173	34.6	16	92.4	71	14.2	
Averages for years 1894-1903.	4,357.6	152.4	35.2	21.8	145.5	64.6	14.9	
1904	5,000	142	28.4	14	98.6	80	16.0	

Rates in Columns 4 and 8 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Note.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division.

Total population at all ages, 4426

Number of inhabited houses, 950

Average number of persons per house, 4.7

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 1218.

At Census  
of 1901.

TABLE II.

**AMBLE DISTRICT.***Vital Statistics in 1904 and Previous Years.*

NAME OF LOCALITY.	AMBLE.				
	YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year
1894	A 3,500	B 141	C 72	D 19	
1895	4,000	143	71	25	
1896	4,000	142	58	19	
1897	4,500	143	65	52	
1898	4,500	156	66	23	
1899	4,500	138	96	33	
1900	4,500	160	52	18	
1901	4,426	158	67	25	
1902	4,650	170	55	51	
1903	5,000	173	71	16	
Averages of years 1894 to 1903.	4,357	152	64.6	21.8	
1904	5,000	142	80	14	

TABLE III.

## AMBLE DISTRICT.

*Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.
	At all ages. 1	Under 1 to 5 3	5 to 15 83	15 to 25 47	25 to 65 24	
Diphtheria ...	2	1	1	1	2	1
Erysipelas ...	...	3		1		2
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	5	47	5	2
Totals ...	...	...	88	48	26	5
						4

TABLE IV.  
AMBLEDISTRICT.

*Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.				
	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25
Scarlet Fever	3	1	2	1	
Whooping Cough	3		2		
Diphtheria and membranous croup	2		1	1	
Enteritis	1	1			
Other septic diseases	2			1	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	4			2	2
Other tubercular diseases	1			1	
Cancer, malignant disease	4		1	1	3
Bronchitis	4		1	1	2
Pneumonia	2		1	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory organs	1				
Alcoholism (Cirrhosis of liver)	2				
Premature birth	9	9			
Heart diseases	12		1		3
Accidents	4		1		3
Senile Decay	6				6
Nervous and Brain diseases	13	1	2	1	3
All other causes	7	2	1	1	3
All causes	80	14	9	11	28
					13

